

**Amendments to the Claims**

Please cancel Claims 1-30. Please add new Claims 31-60. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

1-30. (Canceled)

31. (New) An aprotic-solvent-soluble carboxylic acid diester of polysaccharides or polysaccharide derivatives having a mean content of no more than 10 carboxylic acid diester substituents per polysaccharide molecule.
32. (New) The carboxylic acid diester as claimed in claim 31, characterized in that the polysaccharides or polysaccharide derivatives are starch fractions or starch fraction derivatives.
33. (New) The carboxylic acid diester as claimed in claim 32, characterized in that the starch fractions are breakdown fractions of amylopectin.
34. (New) The carboxylic acid diester as claimed in claim 33, characterized in that the breakdown fractions of amylopectin are obtained by acid breakdown and/or breakdown by  $\alpha$ -amylase of waxy corn starch.
35. (New) The carboxylic acid diester as claimed in claim 34, characterized in that the starch fractions have a mean molecular weight Mw of 2000-50 000 dalton and a mean branching of 5-10 mol% of  $\alpha$ -1,6-glycosidic bonds.
36. (New) The carboxylic acid diester as claimed in claim 34, characterized in that the starch fractions have a mean molecular weight Mw of 2000-50 000 dalton and a mean branching in the range from  $> 10$  to 25% of  $\alpha$ -1,6-glycosidic bonds.

37. (New) The carboxylic acid diester as claimed in claim 32, characterized in that the starch fraction derivatives are hydroxyethyl derivatives of breakdown fractions of waxy corn starch.
38. (New) The carboxylic acid diester as claimed in claim 37, characterized in that the mean molecular weight of Mw of the hydroxyethyl starch fractions is in the range 2-300 000 dalton and the degree of substitution Ms is between 0.1 and 0.8, and also the C2/C6 ratio of the substituents on the carbon atoms C2 and C6 of the anhydroglucoses is between 2 and 15.
39. (New) The carboxylic acid diester as claimed in claim 31, characterized in that an alcohol from which the alcohol component of the carboxylic acid diester is derived has a molecular weight in the range from 80 to 500 g/mol.
40. (New) The carboxylic acid diester as claimed in claim 31, characterized in that an alcohol from which an alcohol component of the carboxylic acid diester is derived has a  $pK_a$  in the range from 6 to 12.
41. (New) The carboxylic acid diester as claimed in claim 31, characterized in that an alcohol, from which an alcohol component of the carboxylic acid diester is derived, of the carboxylic acid diester comprises an HO-N group or a phenol group.
42. (New) The carboxylic acid diester as claimed in claim 31, characterized in that an alcohol from which the alcohol component of the carboxylic acid diester is derived is selected from N-hydroxysuccinimide, sulfo-N-hydroxysuccinimide, substituted phenols and hydroxybenzotriazole.
43. (New) The carboxylic acid diester as claimed in claim 42, characterized in that an alcohol

from which an alcohol component of the carboxylic acid diester is derived is N-hydroxysuccinimide and sulfo-N-hydroxysuccinimide.

44. (New) A solid comprising at least one carboxylic acid diester as claimed in claim 31.
45. (New) A solution comprising at least one carboxylic acid diester as claimed in claim 31.
46. (New) The solution as claimed in claim 45, characterized in that the solution comprises at least one organic solvent.
47. (New) The solution as claimed in claim 46, characterized in that the solution comprises at most 0.5% by weight of water.
48. (New) The solution as claimed in claim 45, characterized in that the solution comprises at least one aprotic solvent.
49. (New) The solution as claimed in claim 48, characterized in that the solvent comprises dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), N-methylpyrrolidone, dimethylacetamide (DMS) and/or dimethylformamide (DMF).
50. (New) A method for production of carboxylic diester as claimed in claim 31, characterized in that at least one polysaccharide and/or a polysaccharide derivative is reacted with at least one carboxylic acid diester in solution in aprotic solvent and the molar ratio of carboxylic ester to polysaccharide is not greater than 10:1.
51. (New) The method as claimed in claim 50, characterized in that both alcohol components of the carboxylic acid diester have a  $pK_a$  in the range 6 to 12.

52. (New) The method as claimed in claim 51, characterized in the N,N'-disuccinimidyl carbonate is used as carboxylic acid diester.
53. (New) The method as claimed in claim 50, characterized in that the reaction takes place at a temperature in the range from 0 to 40°C.
54. (New) The method as claimed in claim 50, characterized in that the reaction takes place at a low base activity.
55. (New) A method for producing pharmaceutical active substances coupled at free amino functions to polysaccharides or polysaccharide derivatives, characterized in that at least one carboxylic acid diester as claimed in claim 1 is reacted with a pharmaceutical active substance which has at least one amino group.
56. (New) The method as claimed in claim 55, characterized in that the reaction takes place in aqueous medium.
57. (New) The method as claimed in claim 56, characterized in that the pH of the aqueous medium is in the range from 7 to 9.
58. (New) The method as claimed in claim 55, characterized in that the reaction takes place at a temperature in the range from 0°C to 40°C.
59. (New) The method as claimed in claim 55, characterized in that the pharmaceutical active substance is a polypeptide or a protein.
60. (New) A pharmaceutically active substance obtained by a method as claimed in claim 25.